

ROOS

Appl. No. 09/741,741

March 23, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled).

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (currently amended) Apparatus for use in a communications system for providing access to telecommunication services, comprising:

a user terminal operable by a subscriber for receiving telecommunication services;

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a net terminal coupled between the user terminal and an access point associated with a communications network including a first high speed, broadband modem, a second, lower speed, narrowband modem, and first switching circuitry selectively controllable to direct signals to and from the user terminal via the communications network using the first modem or the second modem;

the access point including one or more high speed, broadband modems, one or more lower speed, narrowband modems, [[;]] and second switching circuitry, different from the first switching circuitry, selectively controllable to support a connection with the user terminal via the communication network using one of the broadband modems or one of the narrowband modems; and

a controller for controlling the first and second switching circuitry to support the connection.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein the high speed, broadband modem is an xDSL modem and the lower speed, narrowband modem supports a PSTN or ISDN narrowband connection.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein the controller is configured to control the first and second switching circuitry to select the second modem and the one narrowband modem if or when the connection can not be supported as desired between the first modem and the one broadband modem.

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15. (previously presented) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein the controller is configured to regulate switching of the first and second switching circuitry based on detection of one or more predetermined conditions.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein the controller is configured to establish the connection using the second modem and the one narrowband modem, and thereafter, to control the first and second switching circuitry to select the first modem and the one broadband modem.

17. (currently amended) The apparatus in claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ a data connection and ~~the~~ a voice connection are established and supported in parallel with the user terminal using the first and second modems and the one broadband modem and the one narrowband modem.

18. (previously presented) A method for use in a communications system for providing access to telecommunication services to a subscriber associated with a user terminal operable by the subscriber for receiving telecommunication services, comprising:

providing a net terminal coupled between the user terminal and an access point associated with a communications network including a first high speed, broadband modem, a second, lower speed, narrowband modem, and first switching circuitry selectively controllable to direct signals to and from the user terminal via the communications network using the first modem or the second modem,

providing at the access point one or more high speed, broadband modems, one or more lower speed, narrowband modems; and second switching circuitry, different from the first switching circuitry, selectively controllable to support a connection with the user terminal via the

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communication network using one of the broadband modems or one of the narrowband modems;

and

controlling the first and second switching circuitry to support the connection.

19. (previously presented) The method in claim 18, further comprising:

controlling the first and second switching circuitry to select the second modem and the one narrowband modem if or when the connection can not be supported as desired between the first modem and the one broadband modem.

20. (previously presented) The method in claim 18, further comprising:

switching of the first and second switching circuitry based on detection of one or more predetermined conditions.

21. (previously presented) The method in claim 18, further comprising:

establishing the connection using the second modem and the one narrowband modem,

and

controlling the first and second switching circuitry to select the first modem and the one broadband modem.

22. (previously presented) The method in claim 18, further comprising:

establishing and supporting a data connection and a voice connection in parallel with the user terminal using the first and second modems and the one broadband modem and the one narrowband modem.

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